United Nations S/2013/402

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 July 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 9 July 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from the Government of Rwanda, I have the honour to draw your attention to recent developments, involving the Force Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which denotes serious patterns and instances that are of grave concern to my Government.

As you are aware, Rwanda voted in favour of Security Council resolution 2098 (2013) authorizing the establishment and deployment of a Force Intervention Brigade within MONUSCO. We did so in the interest of peace and stability in the region and saw the Brigade and its intended purpose as a useful deterrent to the resumption of violence, while regional and international efforts to achieve a political solution continue.

However, there are credible reports that suggest that some elements within MONUSCO-the Brigade, since their arrival on the ground, have been involved in activities contrary to their intended purpose and which go against the interest of peace and stability in the region.

First, senior Force Intervention Brigade commanders, at the highest level, have held several meetings with the *Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) commanders. The Government of Rwanda has credible, reliable and detailed information that various forms of tactical and strategic collaboration with the FDLR were discussed during those meetings. Their actions, implicating senior United Nations commanders picking sides among the very armed groups whose military activities they are meant to deter, are of serious concern.

Secondly, what is equally concerning and alarming are ongoing patterns of enhanced collaboration between the *Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) and FDLR, often with the knowledge and/or support of certain Force Intervention Brigade contingents. We have reliable information that indicates several instances of FDLR units or commanders being integrated in FARDC commando units near the border with Rwanda. In some instances, certain Force Intervention Brigade commanders are aware and supportive of such instances.

Thirdly, there are increased patterns of large quantities of weapons and ammunition being delivered to FDLR by FARDC officers, which have taken place with the knowledge and support of Force Intervention Brigade commanders.

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As you can see, the above-mentioned activities and patterns are developments that my Government takes seriously, as they constitute a serious threat to the security of my country but also put into question the credibility of MONUSCO and its peacekeeping operations. Any hidden agenda driven by political and/or economic interests, as it has started to manifest itself, will undermine the smooth implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region.

The information contained in this letter was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 8 July 2013 signed by H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

I should be grateful if this letter would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eugène-Richard **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the United Nations